

UNTERMYER SEEKS JAIL SENTENCES

**Suggests Plan to Committee
in Cases of Those Who
Pleaded Guilty.**

BIG COMBINE HALTS

**Building Organization of
1,000 Firms Suspends as
Investigation Opens.**

PRICE FIXING CHARGED

**Non-Members Testify They
Were Unable to Buy
Materials.**

When the Lockwood Legislative Committee, investigating the housing situation, reconvenes to-day it will go into executive session to determine what recommendations it shall make to Supreme Court Justice Vernon M. Davis, who on Monday will impose sentence upon the nineteen individuals and thirteen corporations which on Tuesday pleaded guilty of violations of the Donnelly act as a result of the committee's investigation. If the committee follows the advice and suggestion of its counsel, Samuel Untermyer, it will instruct him to request, as a Special Deputy Attorney-General, substantial jail sentences in each case.

In requesting that the committee give him instructions Mr. Untermyer said:

"My own disposition and advice would be that I be directed or requested by this committee, acting as a Deputy Attorney-General, to bring the subject to the attention of the Attorney-General from the point of view of the committee, with a view of making proper representations to the court. The entire benefit of this investigation is not to be gained unless substantial jail sentences are imposed upon men who have been in combinations of that character, such as the brick manufacturers and the dealers in building materials in the city of New York, who have been the most defiant and the most baneful of all such organizations."

1,000 Firms in Organization.

Most of yesterday's session of the committee was devoted to examination of Frank S. Hanley, secretary of a number of organizations dealing in building materials, chiefly in plumbing and steamfitting lines. Mr. Hanley's examination, however, was interrupted to permit Alderman President P. H. La Guardia to explain why he had referred the now famous meter resolution to the Committee on General Welfare rather than to the building committee.

When he took office, Mr. La Guardia explained, his attention was directed to complaints regarding the treatment of the resolution received at the hands of Alderman William P. Kenneally's committee on buildings. These came from William S. Cetti, the agent of the Badger meter, who was trying ineffectively to get his product on the New York market.

"I explained," said Mr. La Guardia, "that I did not have the power of review over the actions of my predecessor, but when the resolution was introduced again I sent it to the General Welfare Committee because I did not want it to go to a committee about whose chairman I had received complaints."

Mr. Hanley, the chief witness yesterday, gets an aggregate salary of about \$11,000 a year from the various organizations for which he acts as secretary. These include the National Committee of Confederated Supply Associations, which is made up of five integral organizations, namely, the Central Supply Association, the Eastern Supply Association, the Sanitary Potters Association, the Enamel Ware Manufacturers Association and the Range Boiler Manufacturers Association. The other organizations with which Mr. Hanley is identified are the Plumbing Supply Association of Greater New York and the Greater New York Association of Jobbers in Plumbing and Steam Heating Supplies.

The membership of the whole group approximates 1,000 firms, with an aggregate capital of about \$300,000,000 and covering practically the entire country, with agencies and representatives in Cuba. Several firms, the witness testified, have withdrawn from membership in one or another of the interlock-

ing organizations since the Lockwood committee began its work.

The witness identified a volume of "market letters" which had been taken from his office and explained that they contained information about prevailing prices in plumbing supplies which he received and passed on to each member of the organization interested from time to time as prices changed. These prices in each instance showed uniformity for each particular article, but he professed to have no knowledge of what use the members made of the information he sent them.

Mr. Hanley was asked how it was that the last market letter and circular, which he prepared as "editor" for the Greater New York Association of Jobbers, appeared on October 5 last, about the time the Lockwood committee was getting under way. The witness admitted that for some time there had been a "great deal of uncertainty" in some quarters about the legality of such operations as he was conducting. "We were for a time in the 'twilight zone,'" he explained.

After some difficulty Mr. Untermyer had the witness admit that the type-written information about prices upon which he formulated his market letter had been destroyed before the committee investigators searched his files. The National Trade Extension Bureau, another enterprise of the parent National Committee of Confederated Supply Associations, was the subject of some inquiry. The witness explained that it was an educational institution designed to help the plumbers and steamfitters in their business administration. Lectures from the business departments of various universities in the West, the witness said, were sent out for this purpose.

Abraham E. Hurwitz, a jobber in plumbing supplies of 132 East Broadway, said he had been solicited by Mr. Hanley to join his organization, but had not done so. Subsequently, he said, during a shortage of certain materials, when he tried to purchase some he found he could not get it because he was not a member of the jobbers' organization. One of the firms that refused him, he said, was Simon Gastner & Sons, members of the organization. Charles Schlossman of M. Schlossman & Sons, 215 East Thirty-fourth street, had a similar experience. His firm had been a member of the organization, but withdrew after six months.

"Why did you withdraw?" Mr. Untermyer asked.

"Because I did not want to sell goods at prices fixed by some one else," replied the witness. "We could afford to sell much cheaper."

The hearing will be continued to-day.

TRAPPED AFTER ESCAPE FROM TOMBS COURT

**Detective Recaptures Gilberto
at Mother's Home.**

By maintaining a vigil at 84 Catharine street, the home of the mother of Dominick Gilberto, 22 years old, who walked out of the Tombs Court last Tuesday while awaiting arraignment, Detective Howard O'Leary was enabled to recapture the prisoner yesterday. According to O'Leary, who produced Gilberto in court the second time, the prisoner went to his mother's home by crossing roofs to throw the police off his track.

Gilberto told the detective he was on his way to give himself up on the advice of his mother, when O'Leary took him into custody. He said he left the court detention room when O'Leary was busy arraigning another prisoner. At the door an attendant stopped him, but Gilberto said he was an attorney and was permitted to leave.

Magistrate Simpson held Gilberto in \$1,000 for examination Friday. O'Leary arrested him first when he found the man at Oliver and Madison streets with clothing amounting to \$55 in his possession.

GUILTY OF MURDER IN SECOND DEGREE

**Wilfred Reissing Convicted of
Slaying Rudolph Benzler.**

Wilfred Reissing of 711 Burnside avenue, Inwood, was found guilty of murder in the second degree by a jury in the Queens County Supreme Court yesterday. He was indicted in the first degree in connection with the killing of Rudolph Benzler, 39 Jamaica, March 3, Benzler, who had come here from Buffalo to search for his wife, found her in Reissing's company, and, while accompanying her to a lawyer's office to arrange for a divorce, quarreled with Reissing. The shooting followed.

On the stand in his own defense Reissing claimed that the revolver was discharged accidentally. He will be sentenced to-morrow.

FRENCH GIFT COMES IN FREE.

Announcement was made yesterday that the Savres vase presented to the Knights of Columbus by President Millerand of France on the occasion of the organization's pilgrimage to France last summer, has been admitted through the customs duty free.

STILLMAN WITNESS ACCUSES THE WIFE

Continued from First Page.

Erie county. As she entered the foyer she nodded brightly to Dr. Hugh Russell of Buffalo, an osteopath who attended various members of the Stillman family at sundry times during 1917, 1918 and 1919.

The doctor, it is said, has been asked to appear for the plaintiff to tell of certain things he is said to have heard and that were told to him. He takes the position, it is said, that he will not reply to any questions regarding anything confided to him by a patient.

Arthur Beauvais, brother of Fred, was mingling with the crowd in the foyer of the building. He proposes taking the witness stand in Mrs. Stillman's behalf and he vigorously insists that both his brother and Mrs. Stillman have been outrageously slandered. Fred will not come to New York to testify, he said.

From reliable authority comes word that the real sensations will be offered when Mrs. Stillman begins her defence. Several men and women whose names frequently are noted in the lists of those attending New York's smartest social functions will appear in Mrs. Stillman's behalf. They will tell of life at Pocomo Hills and contradict with dates and circumstances the contentions of the banker.

BID FOR CITY BANK STOCK ADVANCES \$12

**But Rise Does Not Bring Out
Any Offerings.**

Charles E. Mitchell was greeted yesterday at the opening of his first full day as president of the National City Bank with a rise of \$12 a share in the bid price for the bank's stock and with the complete absence of offerings of such stock for sale at any price. At the close of business on Tuesday the bid price was \$305, but it advanced yesterday to \$317 bid, with no stock in the market and no selling from any source. Mr. Mitchell emphasized that his election as president to succeed James A. Stillman was due in no way to a change in control, because sales privately or publicly of National City Bank stock have been few and far between. The rise of twelve points in the bid price for the bank stock, of which there is \$40,000,000 outstanding, was taken as putting an estimate of \$4,800,000 on the value of the selection of a new president.

SIGNS SOLDIER BONUS BILL.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., May 4.—Gov. Small to-day signed the soldier bonus bill, providing soldiers a \$15 a month bonus, subject to a vote of the people in November, 1922, on a \$55,000,000 bond issue.

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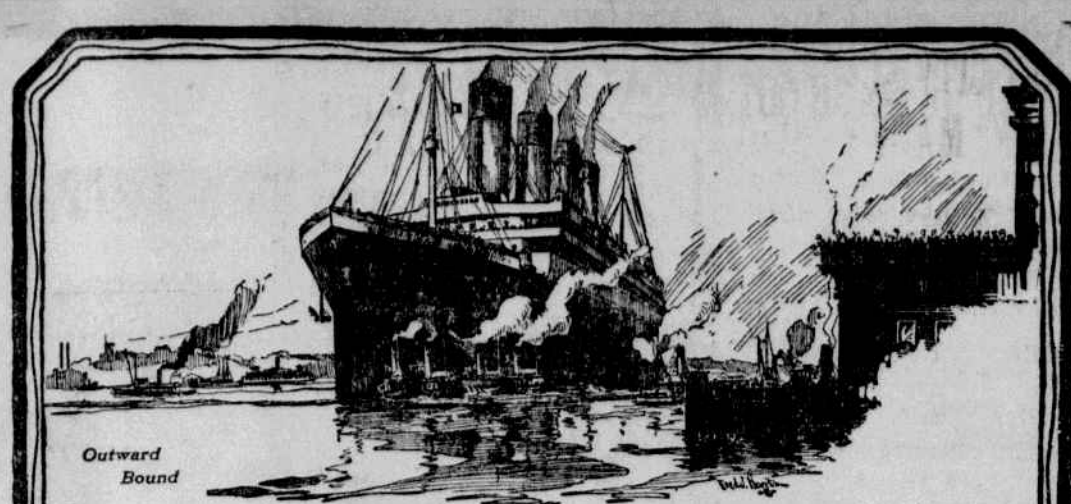
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